



A coalition of 20+ community agencies to eradicate
violence against women and children

Woman Abuse Worki

November, 2011

WAWG Members

Full Members:

The AIDS Network

Catholic Family Services

Catholic Children's Aid Society
of Hamilton

Children's Aid Society

The Elizabeth Fry Society
Hamilton Branch

Good Shepherd Women's
Services

Good Shepherd Youth Services

Hamilton Regional Indian
Centre

Hamilton Urban Core

Immigrant Women's Centre

Mission Services of Hamilton -
Inasmuch House

Interval House of Hamilton

Native Women's Centre

Phoenix Place

SACHA - Sexual Assault Centre
- (Hamilton & Area)

Sexual Assault Domestic
Violence Care Centre

Women's Centre of Hamilton

YWCA Hamilton

Resource Members:

MCSS/MCYS

Victim Witness Assistance
Program

Hamilton Dental Hygienists:

Each November, the Woman Abuse Working Group (WAWG) creates a campaign to raise awareness around the issue of woman abuse.

This year we have chosen to raise awareness around the issues of domestic violence by targeting the dental profession. Research indicates that most physical injuries resulting from domestic violence are found on the head and neck, areas that are clearly visible to the dental team during examinations. Injuries could include lacerations, bruising, fractures, chipped or cracked teeth, poor dental hygiene, a broken jaw, a black eye, bruises on the earlobes or chin and finger marks on the neck, upper arms, or wrists.

More than two thirds of adults visit a dentist at least once a year. Since dental hygienists work in the head and neck region, you may be the first to identify any signs of abuse. In fact, these victims may seek out dental treatment for injuries related to domestic violence. Despite the probability that dental professionals will interact with a victim of abuse in a clinical setting, few recognize domestic violence as a problem their patients encounter.

WAWG is a coalition of over 20 community agencies, coordinating services to eradicate violence against women and children. Our Vision is simple and clear: "*To live in communities without violence*". Half of Canadian women have experienced at least one incident of physical or sexual violence since the age of 16. Violence against women occurs across all ethnic, racial, religious, age, social and economic groups.

This kit includes the following:

- Domestic Violence.....What is it?
- Power and Control Wheel
- Equality Wheel
- Assessing Domestic Violence
- Asking and Validating
- Documenting
- Referring and Resources

The likelihood that dental hygienists will suspect or intervene in domestic violence appears to depend on the amount of related education they receive. It is WAWG's hope that this kit is a starting point for this education. For more information about woman abuse or to download this kit please visit wawg.ca.

Kristene Viljasoo
Chair, WAWG

Valerie Sadler
Chair, Public Awareness & Education-WAWG

c/o Kristene Viljasoo, Chair
www.wawg.ca